
**Health Care & Wellness
Committee**

HB 2209

Brief Description: Allowing advanced registered nurse practitioners to examine and obtain copies of autopsy reports.

Sponsors: Representatives Seaquist, Morrell, Curtis, Green, Moeller and Ormsby.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows confidential records of autopsies to be released to a decedent's attending advanced registered nurse practitioner.

Hearing Date: 2/22/07

Staff: Chris Cordes (786-7103).

Background:

Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners

By statute, advanced registered nurse practice is the performance, by a registered nurse, of an expanded role in providing health care as recognized by the medical and nursing professions and defined by Department of Health (DOH).

Department of Health rules provide that an advanced registered nurse practitioner (ARNP) is a registered nurse prepared to assume primary responsibility for management of a broad range of patient care. ARNPs function within the specialty scopes of practice and standards of care developed by national professional organizations and reviewed and approved by the State Nursing Care Quality Commission.

According to the rules, an ARNP's practice incorporates the use of independent judgment as well as collaborative interaction with other health care professionals when indicated in the assessment and management of conditions appropriate to the ARNP's area of specialization.

Records of Autopsies

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The bodies of individuals who die suddenly, under unnatural or unlawful circumstances, or from violence, among other specified causes, are under the jurisdiction of the county coroner. Autopsies may be performed as required by the coroner, as authorized by family members, guardians, or agencies authorized to dispose of the decedent's remains, or upon court order.

Records of autopsies are confidential. They may be released only to specified parties, including the decedent's family, the attending physician, and certain agencies with relevant official business. On request, the attending physician or the coroner must meet with the decedent's family members to discuss the autopsy findings.

Summary of Bill:

Confidential records of autopsies may be released to a decedent's attending advanced registered nurse practitioner, as well a decedent's attending physician.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.